



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

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F A C T S H E E T

ABOUT THE ELDERLY & DISABLED ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The 1990 passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) signaled a new era of support for older adults and persons with disabilities by mandating equal access to both private and public transportation services and facilities. It added new requirements for public transit systems to make their services fully accessible and provide a complementary network of paratransit service. Since the passage of the ADA, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) has worked to address the special mobility problems of elderly and disabled citizens.

MTC established the Elderly & Disabled Advisory Committee (EDAC) in 1991. The committee's mission is to "advise the Metropolitan Transportation Commission on transportation legislation and services that affect older adults and persons with disabilities in the Bay Area." This is done by:

- Providing formal input on decisions and actions pending before the Commission;
- Actively and independently researching new initiatives that the committee believes might be relevant to the Commission; and
- Staying informed on transportation-related activities in the Bay Area through updates and reports from MTC staff.

Recent MTC projects such as the 2001 *Regional Transportation Plan*, a 25-year blueprint for the region's transportation system, include sections that emphasize the importance of programs that will meet the special needs of older adults and persons with disabilities. In October 2002, MTC hosted a conference about improving transportation for older adults entitled *Mobility Matters*. The forum focused on the preliminary results from MTC's *Older Adults Transportation Study*.

EDAC members serve two-year terms and are expected to attend their committee meetings and to maintain an ongoing engagement with organizations and individuals who make up their constituency. Members are encouraged to communicate with their appointing Commissioner(s) and to present their committee's recommendations to the Commission and/or committees of the Commission, as appropriate. Members receive a stipend for attendance at their meetings.

The 20-member panel includes representatives from the nine Bay Area counties (Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano and Sonoma). Members include one elderly and one disabled advisor from each of the nine counties, selected by the Commissioner(s) representing each county. Two additional advisors, either elderly or disabled, are selected from the region at large by the Commissioners representing the Association of Bay Area Governments and the Bay Conservation and Development Commission. Members attend monthly meetings during business hours at MTC's offices, located at 101 Eighth St., Oakland.

For more information, contact Robert Huang by telephone at (510) 464-7825 or by e-mail at rhuang@mtc.ca.gov.